

Atheist, how do you respond to religious content in games?

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183 results

- [1 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1\)](/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1)
- [2 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=2\)](/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=2)
- [3 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=3\)](/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=3)
- [4 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=4\)](/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=4)
- [➔ \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=2\)](/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=2)

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This topic is locked from further discussion.

#1 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322914511) Posted by **storm_trooper10 (/profile/storm_trooper10/)** (261 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I'm curious, I've played games which has content and ideas from other religions and beliefs... Final Fantasy and Valkyrie Profile 2 (PS2) has Norse Mythology and I've taken my time to play them.

I want to know how the atheists respond to religious beliefs, ideas and concepts found in video games. Ideas like being god in Black and White or elements found in most common RPGs (eg. Final Fantasy, Persona, praying to save your game in Dragon Quest VIII).

Do you avoid games that have those ideas or have you ever returned the games to the store because you found something that you didn't like? Should atheists set up their own website to review games to allow other atheists know what's in those games?

9th July '10 EDIT: Closed this thread if you want, I've made my verdict, so I wouldn't be responding to many future posts.

Thank you for those that have voiced their opinion on this topic, I have a good insight of what a majority of the atheists think surround this area and I'm happy to know that many still enjoy playing games with or without religious content and themes.

There are a lot of comments about 'it's all Fantasy', there is another [thread \(http://uk.gamespot.com/pages/forums/show_msgs.php?topic_id=27351462&msg_id=323410274#323410274\)](http://uk.gamespot.com/pages/forums/show_msgs.php?topic_id=27351462&msg_id=323410274#323410274) on another board on GS where users believe that religious leaders have existed, so it's a bit of a contradiction between a group of atheists saying it's ALL fantasy and having another group of atheists believing in an idea that a religious leader who people followed did exist. So that left unexplained that based on many of the opinions and comments on this thread.

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#2 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322914630) Posted by **knight0151 (/profile/knight0151/)** (1205 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Um, I really don't care. I also listen to some Christian bands too. And I don't mind books, or movies, with religion in them. Do you really view atheists as insane extremists? I'm getting that huge vibe from everybody nowadays. Is anybody else getting that vibe, or am I just paranoid?

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#3 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322914657) Posted by **Shadow_Aura_64 (/profile/Shadow_Aura_64/)** (118 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I could care less. I don't really get offended by religious content in video games; there's no point in doing so.

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#4 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/atheist-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322914684) Posted by **knight0151 (/profile/knight0151/)** (1205 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I couldn't care less

-- Shadow_Aura_64

Fixed. Sorry, couldn't help it. However, I do agree with your post.

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#5 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322914892) Posted by **krisroe_213 (/profile/krisroe_213/)** (881 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Don't care. Just as long as no one is popping out of my screen preaching to me and asking for donations.

And I hate when people say, 'I could care less', lol. Say couldn't*****

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#6 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322914954) Posted by **domatron23 (/profile/domatron23/)** (6225 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

It's really not a problem at all when you understand the divide between what we are shown in movies, games, books etc and what happens in reality. Theistic themes often make for a fantastic work of fantasy or fiction. Look at God of War, The Iliad or.... um Dogma. They're all awesome thanks to the religious elements. Case in point my favourite game of all time is Final Fantasy X.

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#7 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322914960) Posted by **BuryMe (/profile/BuryMe/)** (22017 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Uh... I don't. I don't really see how any one could be offended by any sort of religious references in a game (unless the game was being discriminatory in some way.)

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#8 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322914978) Posted by **Devil-Itachi (/profile/Devil-Itachi/)** (4380 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I usually like the theme, it works well.

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#9 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322914980) Posted by **Rocky32189 (/profile/Rocky32189/)** (8996 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I treat it the same way I treat all fiction.

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#10 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322915511) Posted by **Doom_HellKnight (/profile/Doom_HellKnight/)** (12215 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

It doesn't bother me. Why would it? Unless they start preaching to me, I couldn't care less.

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#11 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322915631) Posted by **eldubious (/profile/eldubious/)** (128 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I go "ARRRRGGGH how dare they??!" because it's important to me. Only, not.

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[#12 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322915691\)](#) Posted by [ubpoker123 \(/profile/ubpoker123/\)](#) (877 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I'm curious, I've played games which has content and ideas from other religions and beliefs... Final Fantasy and Valkyrie Profile 2 (PS2) has Norse Mythology and I've took my time to play them.

I want to know how the athiests respond to religious beliefs, ideas and concepts found in video games. Ideas like being god in Black and White or elements found in most common RPGs (eg. Final Fantasy, Persona, praying to save your game in Dragon Quest VIII).

Do you avoid games that have those ideas or have you ever returned the games to the store because you found something that you didn't like? Should Atheists set up their own website to review games to allow other atheists know what's in those games?

-- storm_trooper10

I think religious beliefs, ideas, and concepts can add to a video game, providing that it goes along well with the story and at the same time not being corny.

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[#13 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322916004\)](#) Posted by [SavageM2 \(/profile/SavageM2/\)](#) (10800 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

If it is good, enjoy it like any other piece of fiction.

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[#14 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322916797\)](#) Posted by [majadamus \(/profile/majadamus/\)](#) (10287 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

It's just all fantasy to me. I don't have a problem with it at all.

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[#15 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917026\)](#) Posted by [btaylor2404 \(/profile/btaylor2404/\)](#) (11353 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I cannot think of an instance where it's bothered me. It's a theme in many, many games and aspects of life. So if I choose not to believe, I'm still going to see some of it in day to day life. It really has zero influence on if I like a game or not.

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[#16 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917070\)](#) Posted by [dixon3133 \(/profile/dixon3133/\)](#) (201 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I never really notice it so it doesn't bother me. I'm fine with it being there as it usually adds to the game..

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[#17 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917202\)](#) Posted by [storm_trooper10 \(/profile/storm_trooper10/\)](#) (261 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

It's just all fantasy to me. I don't have a problem with it at all.

-- majadamus

So the concept or idea of someone going to a temple or church to pray is 'fantasy'?

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[#18 \(/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917492\)](#) Posted by [Black_Knight_00 \(/profile/Black_Knight_00/\)](#) (19746 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I see religious elements in games as I see them in reality: it's a bunch of myths and legends that make good stories. Besides, no game is complete without its religious nutcase.

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#19 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917576) Posted by **btaylor2404 (/profile/btaylor2404/)** (11353 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

[QUOTE="majadamus"]It's just all fantasy to me. I don't have a problem with it at all.

— storm_trooper10

So the concept or idea of someone going to a temple or church to pray is 'fantasy'?

No, I doubt that's what he/she meant. The concept of an all mighty God is "fantasy" to many. The act of going to church is very real, but belief in God is an utterly different thing.

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#20 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917764) Posted by **muthsera666 (/profile/muthsera666/)** (13271 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Do I have a problem with dragons in games? Do I have a problem with magic in games? Why would I have a problem with religious incorporations?

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#21 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917857) Posted by **GodModeEnabled (/profile/GodModeEnabled/)** (15314 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Do I have a problem with dragons in games? Do I have a problem with magic in games? Why would I have a problem with religious incorporations?

— muthsera666

This. Also not all theists are extremists or fearmongering haters. I'm an atheist and I don't give a damn what you believe. This applies to games, movies, books, etc. It's entertainment.

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#22 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917869) Posted by **knight0151 (/profile/knight0151/)** (1205 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Do I have a problem with dragons in games?

— muthsera666

Well I do, they kidnapped my mother.

:(

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#23 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917891) Posted by **TheHighWind (/profile/TheHighWind/)** (4581 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Hail Odin!

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#24 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917937) Posted by **storm_trooper10 (/profile/storm_trooper10/)** (261 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

[QUOTE="storm_trooper10"]*[QUOTE="majadamus"]It's just all fantasy to me. I don't have a problem with it at all.*

– btaylor2404

So the concept or idea of someone going to a temple or church to pray is 'fantasy'?

No, I doubt that's what he/she meant. The concept of an all mighty God is "fantasy" to many. The act of going to church is very real, but belief in God is an utterly different thing.

Who knows, but hey, if someone's makes a claim, I do expect them to back it up, I mean if something like a process of going out the house to visit a building call a church is a fantasy, then I want to hear his reason behind it.

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#25 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917943) Posted by **Macutchi (/profile/Macutchi/)** (4446 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

[QUOTE="majadamus"]*It's just all fantasy to me. I don't have a problem with it at all.*

– storm_trooper10

So the concept or idea of someone going to a temple or church to pray is 'fantasy'?

what an absurd conclusion to make from his post

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#26 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322917970) Posted by **DarkCatalyst (/profile/DarkCatalyst/)** (20965 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I'm not offended by the presence of religion or anything. If they're serious, I just approach it the same way I do in real life. "That's just what works for these people." If it's clearly fantasy application of good mythological material (Shin Megami Tensei), I just enjoy the world the developers came up with. (As a writer, I am working on something similar anyway.) If it's a completely made-up religion (Lunar), come on, who's going to be offended by that? That being said, I've never once played a video game and felt like the developer was pushing any kind of religion on me, even in cases like Dragon Quest VIII where, as mentioned in the original post, your character prays to save the game. Of course, this thread isn't directly aimed at me, since I'm not a "true" atheist, but rather, an agnostic ex-Mormon. However, I imagine the apathy levels being about the same. :)

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#27 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322918087) Posted by **SteveTabernacle (/profile/SteveTabernacle/)** (2584 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

That being said, I've never once played a video game and felt like the developer was pushing any kind of religion on me, even in cases like Dragon Quest VIII where, as mentioned in the original post, your character prays to save the game.

– DarkCatalyst

Agreed. I've been an atheist a few years now, (I hate that brand since being defined by what you don't believe in is silly, but it's the only one people recognize so I deal with it) and in most games it's nothing offensive at all. I imagine I might find those ridiculous Left Behind games offensive to some degree, but from what I read of them, everyone should, theist and atheist alike.

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#28 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322918718) Posted by **storm_trooper10 (/profile/storm_trooper10/)** (261 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Don't care. Just as long as no one is popping out of my screen preaching to me and asking for donations.

– krisroe_213

lol, i can imagine playing a game and have someone preach and have the game make me log into my paypal account to give donations, it would be a bit inappropriate. [QUOTE="DarkCatalyst"]I'm not offended by the presence of religion or anything. If they're serious, I just approach it the same way I do in real life. "That's just what works for these people." If it's clearly fantasy application of good mythological material (Shin Megami Tensei), I just enjoy the world the developers came up with. (As a writer, I am working on something similar anyway.) If it's a completely made-up religion (Lunar), come on, who's going to be offended by that?

I haven't thought about the 'made up' religions for the sake of the game, however I would see why people would care less. Having played Skies of Arcadia as half of the world worships the one of the 6 moons, it gives the world and character a bit of character and personality and a good understand of the world, so I

suppose people wouldn't get offended if you put it that way. Actually someone posted something about adding value to the game in a earlier post, which was this:

I think religious beliefs, ideas, and concepts can add to a video game, providing that it goes along well with the story and at the same time not being corny.

– ubpoker123

I'm still Theist, I just curious about what you all think, which is why I asked.

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#29 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322919569) Posted by **muthsera666 (/profile/muthsera666/)** (13271 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Who knows, but hey, if someone's makes a claim, I do expect them to back it up, I mean if something like a process of going out the house to visit a building call a church is a fantasy, then I want to hear his reason behind it.

– storm_trooper10

Which is a completely inappropriate interpretation of the post in question. Belief in some mystical being is a fantasy according to some. Going to church is pointless for some, but going there isn't a fantasy, and that's obviously not a fantasy. Antagonizing someone for answering a question you asked probably isn't a great idea.

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#30 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322919775) Posted by **XaosII (/profile/XaosII/)** (16706 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Fantasy fits right in with more fantasy.

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#31 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322922068) Posted by **N7v1K0 (/profile/N7v1K0/)** (5755 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I don't really care about religion in games

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#32 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322925999) Posted by **KlepticGrooves (/profile/KlepticGrooves/)** (2448 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Doesn't bother me. It fits into the whole mythology stuff.

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#33 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322926320) Posted by **QuistisTrepe_ (/profile/QuistisTrepe_/)** (4121 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I'm curious, I've played games which has content and ideas from other religions and beliefs... Final Fantasy and Valkyire Profile 2 (PS2) has Noose Mythology and I've took my time to play them.

I want to know how the athiests respond to religous beliefs, ideas and concepts found in video games. Ideas like being god in Black and White or elements found in most common RPGs (eg. Final Fantasy, Persona, praying to save your game in Dragon Quest VIII).

Do you avoid games that have those ideas or have you ever returned the games to the store because you found something that you didn't like? Should Atheists set up there own website to review games to allow other atheist know what's in those games?

– storm_trooper10

As an atheist, I think nothing of it. I look upon religious themes in gaming as a component of a story and that's all. It doesn't bother me at all.

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#34 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322928573) Posted by [_Bear \(/profile/_Bear/\)](#) (18759 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

Like anything in a game if it's done well I like, if not I don't. It's just another part of story telling, used well it enhances the game.

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#35 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322928659) Posted by [Treflis \(/profile/Treflis/\)](#) (12144 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I don't really mind, I consider Angels and Demons just the same as Trolls and pixies.

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#36 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322928722) Posted by [QuistisTrep_ \(/profile/QuistisTrep_/\)](#) (4121 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

[spoiler] Whether it was defeating "God" in Xenogears or Lucifer in SMT: Nocturne, I thoroughly enjoyed both:D [/spoiler]

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#37 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322929866) Posted by [SerenityBee \(/profile/SerenityBee/\)](#) (103 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I treat it like fantasy.

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#38 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322930494) Posted by [LoG-Sacrament \(/profile/LoG-Sacrament/\)](#) (20397 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

even games that do tackle religious elements are rarely supportive of it. for whatever reason, video games as a medium tend to be critical of religion. perhaps its that games tend to be developed by younger people and its just a sign of the times.

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#39 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322932263) Posted by [foxhound_fox \(/profile/foxhound_fox/\)](#) (92660 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

I don't like the generalization that all atheists have something "wrong" with religion. Many people are atheists because they haven't found reason to ascribe to a religion, like myself. I am an atheist, and love religion (it is my major academic interest) and I am thinking of using religion in video games as my focus for graduate studies (one of many options I'm mulling over right now).

The Elder Scrolls has one of the most interesting uses of religious belief I've seen in any game... and one that captures religious ritual and belief quite well.

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#40 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322932667) Posted by [lordreaven \(/profile/lordreaven/\)](#) (7239 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

In Medieval 2 Total War, i become a Zealot for whatever my factions religion in (though i prefer pagam, becasue i'm one :D. I know its bias, sue me!!!!). I couldn't care aslong as the game lets me choose which one and i can spread it like the plague. The only thing ob;ivion was lacking *sigh* why no daedra conversions?!?!:cry:

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#41 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322933317) Posted by [GodModeEnabled \(/profile/GodModeEnabled/\)](#) (15314 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

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The Elder Scrolls has one of the most interesting uses of religious belief I've seen in any game... and one that captures religious ritual and belief quite well.
--foxhound_fox

The Elder Scrolls? I dont recall any religion in the series made up or otherwise. Its been a while since I played the games however.

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#42 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322934863) Posted by **ASK_Story (/profile/ASK_Story/)** (11455 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

To the OP: Your topic is kind of ironic because I would think non-atheists would avoid those types of games.

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#43 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322934916) Posted by **jks22112 (/profile/jks22112/)** (2395 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

If it's Mythology, it's usually pretty cool. I actually haven't experienced a game that had a strong pro religious message. None that I can think of anyway. Not that it would bother me really. I don't get offended by religion, crazy to think people do.

One of the only games with one of the best current day religious messages I could think of is Killer 7. Atleast that's how I took the game. There are many representations as to what the hell is going on. I responded to that game with, well not fully getting it the first time, then a "yeah, that's a good point." Kind of thing. It wasn't an anti religious message, or a pro religious message. I don't think so, anyway.

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#46 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322942405) Posted by **LastRambo341 (/profile/LastRambo341/)** (8767 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

[QUOTE="storm_trooper10"]*[QUOTE="majadamus"]It's just all fantasy to me. I don't have a problem with it at all.*
--majadamus

So the concept or idea of someone going to a temple or church to pray is 'fantasy'?

Ya...Religion to me is all made up fairy tale nonsense. But, of course people actually going to church, mosque, temple or whatever to worship is reality. I just think stuff like talking snakes, and demons are made up. I love fantasy/fiction it's why I play video games. It's one of the main reasons I can tolerate religion.

"Religion to me is all made up fairy tale nonsense" I suggest you watch what you're saying

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#47 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322944467) Posted by **warmaster670 (/profile/warmaster670/)** (4698 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

[QUOTE="majadamus"]
[QUOTE="storm_trooper10"]*So the concept or idea of someone going to a temple or church to pray is 'fantasy'?*
--LastRambo341

Ya...Religion to me is all made up fairy tale nonsense. But, of course people actually going to church, mosque, temple or whatever to worship is reality. I just think stuff like talking snakes, and demons are made up. I love fantasy/fiction it's why I play video games. It's one of the main reasons I can tolerate religion.

"Religion to me is all made up fairy tale nonsense" I suggest you watch what you're saying

Or what? you gonna start a crusade on him?

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#48 (/forums/games-discussion-1000000/athiest-how-do-you-respond-to-religious-content-in-27351937/?page=1#js-message-322944616) Posted by **LastRambo341 (/profile/LastRambo341/)** (8767 posts) - 5 years, 5 months ago

[QUOTE="warmaster670"]

